

In the Specification:

Amend the paragraph on Page 3, lines 4 - 25 as follows:

Referring to the Figure, a kitchen apparatus 8 according to the present invention is shown. The kitchen apparatus includes a sink 10, preferably but not necessarily one that is known in the art as a farm sink. A farm sink is ~~a counter-mounted sink that~~ mounted to a counter (referenced generally as 18) to form a kitchen counter assembly, so that the sink is not free standing, and ~~that~~ possesses a front surface that is visible after the sink is installed in the counter. However, a sink of the freestanding variety that has legs and is not integrated into a counter but where the front surface is nevertheless visible when the sink is configured for use may be used without departing from the principles of the present invention. The sink 10 is equipped with a basin 11 with a drain hole 9 for connection to a drain, and with one or more faucets 14 for introducing water into the basin. The faucets are typically not manufactured with the sink but are added during or after installation of the sink. Side flanges (not shown) may be provided whereby the sink is laterally supported by the adjacent countertop, to which the side flanges are attached and caulked. The basin 11 forms a depression in a generally horizontal surface 13, which is typically flat and which typically surrounds the basin circumferentially. Depending downwardly from a front portion 13a of the sink 10 is an apron 17 having a front surface 12. The front surface 12 is typically substantially vertically oriented, but this is not necessary. In the preferred farm sink embodiment, a gap 15 is typically provided between the basin and the apron 17 to allow the sink to be additionally supported by a structural element of the counter in which it is installed that runs laterally through the gap. The front surface 12, which is visible after sink installation,

conceals this structural element. The sink is generally constructed of metal as a single unit by casting, but could also be formed through other techniques such as the bending, cutting and welding of sheets of metal.

Amend the paragraph at Page 3, line 27 - Page 4, line 5 as follows:

If the front surface of the sink is plain in texture, as is the case with most farm sinks currently on the market, the natural color and texture of the smooth metal contribute their visual qualities to the overall visual impression of the kitchen counter ~~and sink~~ assembly. However, the decorative attractiveness of a featureless metal surface is limited. Even if as mentioned above the metal surface is textured by peening or other working of the surface, the improvement is relatively small. It is the intent of the present invention to provide a means whereby this visual quality can be enhanced to a greater degree and in a wide variety of ways. This is accomplished through the introduction of a panel 20 which may embody a larger number of different types of decorative treatments that will enhance the appearance of the front of the sink as it is placed in a kitchen.